of Sidney Poitier, Lawrence Fishburne and Denzel Washington.

From offstage, inspiring women of every color, we find Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. This poet, writer, and lecturer was the first African-American female novelist to be published in this country. She was born in Baltimore, in 1825, and attended a school for African-Americans on the present site of the Baltimore Convention Center. A writer of paperbacks and pamphlets on topics from abolition to the Bible, her popularity has been well documented. Records show that two of her poetry collections had sold 50,000 copies each by 1878. Her talents and perseverance were such that she was also the first African-American woman to have her work published in the Atlantic Monthly. Without someone like Harper, we may never have seen a Gwendolyn Brooks or an Alice Walker.

Joshua Johnson was the first African-American artist in the United States to earn his living as a professional portrait painter. A freed slave, Johnson worked in Baltimore for more than 30 years and painted more than 80 portraits of Baltimore's sea captains, shopkeepers, and merchants, and their families from 1795 to 1825. Described as a ''self-taught genius,'' Johnson's subjects were mostly white and his style, quite realistic for the age in which he lived. While little is known of Johnson's personal history, the success and historical significance of his professional endeavors are clear. Johnson's portraits are still widely displayed in museums across the Nation, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the National Gallery here in Washington.

The Broadway classics, ''I'm Just Wild About Harry'' and ''Memories of You'' are the works of another Baltimorean, Eubie Blake. The famous vaudevillian, ragtime pianist and composer of more than 3,000 songs was the cocomposer of the first all African-American Broadway musical, ''Shuffle Along.'' After its 1921 debut on Broadway, ''Shuffle Along's'' successful 2 year run in New York paved the way for a continued African-American presence on Broadway's brightly-lit strip. ''Shuttle Along'' also influenced other composers, including Gershwin who, many critics say, might never have written ''Porgy and Bess'' had Blake never written his musical. At age 86, Blake astonished the entertainment world by coming out of retirement to join the ragtime revival of the 1970's, inspiring a whole new generation of listeners. Two years after receiving the Medal of Freedom from President Reagan in 1981, Blake was honored at galas across the country that marked his 100th birthday with evenings of his own music.

Baltimore is proud to claim another musical legend. Raised as Eleanor Fagen, Billie Holiday rose to outstanding levels of acclaim and popularity for her unique approach to jazz singing: She was as able to alter the rhythm and tone of her voice as the players accompanying her were able to do on their instruments. In the course of her 26-year career, so-called Lady Day recorded with musical giants including Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Artie Shaw and Teddy Wilson. Frequently called the greatest jazz singer ever, she inspired audiences from New York's Cotton Club to Baltimore's Royal theater, with ballads such as ''Strange Fruit,'' a song protesting lynching and discrimination.

Baltimore is also home to the Afro-American newspaper group, the Nation's oldest continuously published African-American newspaper chain. Founded in 1892, the chain has produced as many as 13 editions, and served readers from New Jersey to South Carolina. The pages of the Afro-American have borne the bylines of the paper's many reporters who later became national figures in the struggle for civil rights. One such individual was Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the Baltimore lawyer and activist who ultimately became director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP. Today, the Afro-American publishes editions in Baltimore and Washington DC as well as a Wednesday weekly.

First knight, first novelist, first painter, first composer, first lady of jazz, the list goes on and on. Maryland is very proud of these great men and women. In succeeding against enormous odds, only did they inspire us, but they laid the groundwork upon which other African-American actors, painters, writers, and musicians have followed. Like Maryland's history, the history of this country is replete with the contributions of African-Americans, many of which have gone unrecognized. The names I have mentioned today are but a small sample, a reminder that Black History Month is also a time to silently honor those heroes whose names we may never know.

It was another writer who often worked in Maryland, Langston Hughes, who wondered,

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up.
Like a raisin in the sun?

The accomplishments of the African-Americans I have recognized today prove that some dreams can surmount even the most difficult obstacles. A 100 years ago, who could have imagined the success of writers like Hughes and Toni Morrison? Who would have dreamed of public servants and leaders such as Maryland's own Parren Mitchell, Thurgood Marshall, and Kweisi Mfume? The achievements of these as well as the outstanding individuals who had the courage to take the very first steps, individuals like Joshua Johnson and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, challenge us to ensure that today's budding artists and leaders will never have to confront the barriers that faced earlier generations. Given the extraordinary achievements of the artists and activists who did overcome those barriers, one can only imagine the wealth of poems, paintings, and compositions that never made it into our libraries, museums, and concert halls. Let us create an America that is America for all Americans, and let us make our history, our culture, and our future that much richer.●

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like you to join me in congratulating the accomplishments of a special program that benefits the students, educators, and communities of South Dakota. In 1993, the University of South Dakota [USD] started the Professional Development Center [PDC] with the hope of strengthening the important relationship between rural economic growth and the professional development of teachers. Even those in the PDC had no idea then that, 4 years later, this program would have impacted the State to such a large degree with unlimited potential for the future.

A career in education is subject to a number of barriers including feelings of isolation as a new teacher and a sense of being stuck in a rut as an experienced teacher. These feelings can influence the overall effectiveness of teachers by not allowing them to achieve their potential as professional educators. The PDC is designed to counter these feelings by pairing first year teachers as interns with more experienced teachers as mentors. In addition, a member of the USD faculty is assigned to each pairing. This arrangement allows for the exchange of ideas, materials, teaching demonstrations, and technologies in a supportive social and professional environment. Interns benefit by learning from talented and experienced peers; mentors are rejuvenated with new ideas; and the university faculty provide both parties with a direct link to the resources and opportunities available at USD.

The impact of this relationship is felt outside the classroom walls. By creating an environment of shared learning within a community, the PDC empowers teachers to come up with creative educational opportunities for their students and, most importantly, to act on these ideas. In the process of enhancing the curriculum, educators enhance their own professional development.

Ultimately, the PDC benefits the children and communities of South Dakota the most. Students receive quality instruction and are challenged to develop their own new ideas from motivated teachers. In addition, students are exposed to positive role models in education, encouraging some to pursue a similar career. For their part, communities reap the rewards of an environment with higher educational standards for students, teachers with a strengthened commitment to their profession, and established links to USD.

Mr. President, the Professional Development Center at the University of

South Dakota is a perfect example of a program that enhances communities through education. It is a model for future efforts to improve the overall quality of life in rural America. I invite you to join me in congratulating the following members of the PDC for receiving the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award at the recent Association for Teacher Educators conference: University of South Dakota interim president, Dr. Paul Olscamp; dean of the College of Education, Dr. Larry Bright; Dr. Sharon Lee, Dr. Michael Hoadley, Dr. Don Monroe, Dr. Lana Danielson, Dr. Royce Engstrom, Donna Gross, Dr. Sharon Ross, Dr. Rosanne Yost, Dr. Roger Bordeaux, and Mindy Crawford.●

## THE URGENT NEED TO OUTLAW POISON GAS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I intend to address one of the most important matters that should come before the Senate in the next several weeks: the Chemical Weapons Convention. This convention—negotiated under Presidents Reagan and Bush—would outlaw poison gas weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention represents a significant step forward in our efforts to contend with the greatest immediate threat to our national security—the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Chemical Weapons Convention will make it illegal under international and domestic laws for a country to use, develop, produce, transfer, or stockpile chemical weapons.

The CWC will help protect our citizens from the use of poison gas weapons by terrorist groups. It will benefit our military by requiring other nations to follow our lead and destroy their chemical weapons. It will improve the ability of our intelligence agencies to monitor chemical weapons threats to our Armed Forces and our Nation. The convention has the strong support of the American chemical industry, which was centrally involved in the negotiation of the CWC. It also takes into account all of the protections afforded Americans under our Constitution.

This is a bipartisan treaty, initiated and negotiated under President Reagan, further negotiated, finalized, and signed under President Bush, and strongly endorsed and submitted for the Senate's advice and consent to ratification by President Clinton.

The costs of the CWC are small, but its benefits are potentially enormous.

At present, international law permits the Libyas and the North Koreas of the world to produce limitless quantities of chemical weapons. That will change when the CWC enters into force.

The CWC will make pariahs out of states that refuse to abide by its provisions. Through the sanctions required by the convention, it will make it more difficult for those pariah states to obtain the precursor chemicals they need to manufacture poison gas. It will create international pressure on these states to sign and ratify the CWC and to abide by its provisions. The CWC will create a standard for good international citizens to meet. It will brand as outlaws those countries that choose to remain outside this regime.

The entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention will mark a major milestone in our efforts to enlist greater international support for the important American objective of containing and penalizing rogue states that seek to acquire or transfer weapons of mass destruction.

Ironically, should the Senate fail to give its advice and consent, this milestone will pass with the U.S. On the same side as the rogue states.

### CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION

Mr. President, with just over 2 months remaining until entry-into-force, we have reached the eleventh hour.

The convention has been signed by 161 countries and ratified by 68. It will enter into force on April 29 of this year, with or without the participation of the United States. While the United States led the effort to achieve the CWC, the Senate, which received the convention from President Clinton in 1993, has not yet given its advice and consent to ratification.

Our failure to ratify this convention before April 29 will have direct and serious consequences for the security of this country.

First, the CWC mandates trade restrictions that could have a deleterious impact upon the American chemical industry. If the United States has not ratified, American companies will have to supply end-user certificates to purchase certain classes of chemicals from CWC members. After 3 years we will be subject to trade sanctions that will harm American exports and jobs.

Second, an overall governing body known as the Conference of States Parties will meet soon after April 29 to draw up rules governing the implementation of the convention. If we are not a party to the CWC, we will not be a member of that conference. This body with no American input could make rules that have a serious negative impact on the United States.

Third, there will be a standing executive council of 41 members, on which we are assured of a permanent seat from the start because of the size of our chemical industry—that is, if we have ratified the convention by April 29. If we ratify after the council is already constituted, then a decision on whether to order a requested surprise inspection of an American facility may be taken without an American representative evaluating the validity of the request and looking out for the facility's interests.

Fourth, there will be a technical secretariat with about 150 inspectors, many of whom would be American because of the size and sophistication of our chemical industry. If we fail to ratify this convention in the next 2 months, there will be no American inspectors.

Finally, and most importantly in the long term, by failing to ratify we would align ourselves with those rogue actors who have chosen to defy the CWC. This would do irreparable harm to our global leadership on critical arms control and non-proliferation concerns.

Mr. President, I would now like to address some of the benefits we will derive by joining the CWC.

### TERRORISM

One clear benefit of the CWC is that it will help protect us against the threat of terrorist groups acquiring poison gas and using it against our citizens at home or our troops abroad. Imagine for a moment if those responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing or last year's attack on our troops in Saudi Arabia had used poison gas instead of conventional devices. How many more Americans would have been killed?

The CWC will make it more difficult for terrorists to get their hands on chemicals that would allow them to blackmail us with the threat of killing thousands of Americans with a single device. This convention will require countries to destroy their stockpiles of chemical weapons, eliminating the risk that these weapons could fall into the wrong hands. It also will control the transfer of those chemicals that can be used to make chemical weapons, thus restricting and improving the monitoring of chemicals that terrorists need to manufacture weapons.

Most importantly, parties to the convention will be required to pass implementing legislation to place the same prohibitions on persons under their jurisdiction that states themselves accept under the convention. This will mean that states will control strictly all toxic chemicals and their precursors. Any prohibited activity under the convention will be criminalized.

That was not the case with the 1995 attack on the Tokyo subway in which lethal sarin gas caused thousands of casualties. At that time, there was no Japanese law against the manufacture and possession of chemical weapons. Following that horrible incident, Japan moved swiftly to enact legislation to criminalize chemical weapons activities of the sort banned by the convention. Under the CWC, all parties must do the same.

In conjunction with the legislation we will introduce in our Congress to implement the CWC, the convention will provide American law enforcement officers the tools they need to investigate terrorist groups that are trying to acquire chemical weapons and improve the prospects for early detection and prosecution.

In short, while it cannot entirely eliminate the threat of chemical terrorism—and I would submit that no treaty can—the CWC will make it much harder for terrorists to obtain poison gas and to use it against Americans.